

Grand Gap Loop Trail Time-Sharing Experiment

Weekday use by both hikers and cyclists

The General Management Plan approved concept of “time-sharing” is being applied to the Grand Gap Loop Trail to combine the designated hiking use with mountain bike use on a limited basis. On weekends only hiking will be permitted. On weekdays the trail will be open to both hikers and cyclists.

The General Management Plan (GMP) for the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area came to completion in May of 2005 after years of work and public input. A major component of this plan is the designation of a trail system that provides recreational opportunities for a variety of user groups. One method outlined in the GMP for increasing trail opportunities for various user groups without increasing the development and maintenance responsibilities of the National Area was the use of “time-sharing”. The “time-share” concept is intended to permit a second type of use to occur on a trail during what is considered to be a non-peak time for the trails officially designated use.

“Time-sharing” on Grand Gap Loop is an experiment and will need to be evaluated to determine if the desired results are being achieved. Part of the evaluation will be accomplished through comments received from the various trail users themselves.

Trail users can submit their comments by filling out a comment form at the Bandy Creek Visitor Center, submitting them on line at BISO_Superintendent@nps.gov or by mail to: Superintendent, Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, 4564 Leatherwood Road, Oneida TN 37841.



SHARE THE TRAIL



RESPECT

OTHER VISITORS - Slow down & communicate when passing.
THE LAND AND WILDLIFE - Leave no trace.
TRAIL RULES - Be responsible.

Biking Information

Grand Gap Loop Trail

Trail Length 6.8 miles

IMBA Trail Difficulty Rating

Most trail segments
Some trail segments

More Difficult
Very Difficult



This narrow trail is for cyclists of intermediate/advanced skill levels only

WARNING - Some portions of the trail are near the prevailing cliff line. Use **EXTREME CAUTION** in these areas. Dismounting and portage may be necessary.

This is a **SHARED** loop with hikers. Bicycles are only allow to use this trail Monday through Friday. Cyclists are **REQUIRED** to YEILD to **HIKERS**.

This trail is patrolled by volunteers associated with the National Park Service and the IMBA National Mountain Bike Patrol.

Weather conditions may dictate more cautious use. FOG/MIST occurs often and ICE may fall from overhanging ledges in winter months.

Help preserve the beauty of Big South Fork NRRRA and pack out what you pack in.

